In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the cross-sectional shape of the sealing member 52 is at least partially formed by compression of the containment member 12 (valve body in the illustrated embodiment) and joining member 14 (tail section as illustrated). Referring now to FIG. 4, the sealing member 52 is shown with a cross-sectional shape it might have before being compressed by the two members forming the sealing cavity, the valve body 12 and tails section 14 in the illustrated embodiment, a circular cross-sectional shape that differs from the diamond-shaped cross-sectional shape of the cavity 50. As illustrated, the circular cross-sectional shape of the sealing member 52 has dimensions in various directions that do not fit into the cavity 50. When the sealing member 52 of circular cross-sectional shape if interposed into the cavity 50, and the valve body 12 and tail section 14 are moved toward each other to compressingly engage the circular sealing member 52, material from the sealing member 52 is forced to flow into the opposite end portions of the cavity 50 formed respectively by converging walls 60,62 and 64,66. FIG. 5 is similar to FIG. 4, except that the pre-compressed cross-sectional shape of the sealing member 52 is in the form parallelogram, either rectangular, square or rhombus.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 34-39.

Please amended the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 1 wherein the fluid containment member and the joining structure cooperate to compressingly engage the interposed sealing member and to urge the sealing member from a preformed cross-sectional shape to a cross-sectional shape corresponding to the shape of the cavity.

13.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is circular.

14.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is rectangular.

15.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 14 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is square.

16.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 12 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is a rhombus.

21.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 18 wherein the valve body and the joining structure cooperate to compressingly engage the interposed sealing member and to urge the sealing member from a preformed cross-sectional shape to a cross-sectional shape corresponding to the shape of the cavity.

22.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 18 wherein the valve body and the joining structure compressingly engage the interposed sealing member to urge material from the sealing member to flow into the converging end portions of the sealing cavity.

29.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is circular.

30.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is rectangular.

31.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is square.

32.(Amended) A thermally assisted sealing arrangement as recited in claim 28 wherein the cross-sectional shape of the annular sealing member is a rhombus.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, applicants have corrected certain informalities in the specification and claims. The amendments herein were not done for reasons of patentability, but were to present the specification and claims more clearly prior to substantive examination by the Examiner.

In the July 16, 2002, Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement between Group I, the valve and sealing arrangement of claims 1-33 and Group II, the method of sealing between structures of claims 34-39. Applicants respectfully elect the invention of Group I, reserving the right to pursue the non-elected invention in a divisional application.